



1 Mrs. Bayne Tw 5B
2 Library

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1953

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending 31st December, 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 4,666 acres.

Estimated resident population mid-1953, 17,170.

Rateable value £89,349.

Sum realised by a penny rate, £342:4:8.

Number of inhabited houses, about 4,940.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	259	133	126
Illegitimate	26	15	11
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid-1953, 16.59.			

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 23.97.			

DEATHS.	279	140	139
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 16.24.			

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal causes.....	0	0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	17.54
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	11.58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	76.92
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	60
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents	2

The comparable figures for towns of approximately the same size are as follows:—

Birth rate per 1,000	15.7
Death rate per 1,000	11.3
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age ...	24.3

In the Borough there is a School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals, a Hospital for chronic aged and sick female patients and an Orthopaedic Clinic held weekly at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals.

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are available, whilst Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part-time officer, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Borough Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors, all full-time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in Norwich Road is held weekly on Friday afternoons, and is well attended.

WELFARE ATTENDANCES FOR 1953

Number of children who attended during the year	399
Number of children who attended for the first time, and who at their first attendance were under 1 year	172
Number of children attending born in 1953 ...	143
Number of children attending born in 1952 ...	129
Number of children attending born 1951-1948	127
Total number of attendances made by children during the year.	
1. Under 1 year of age	2584
2. 1 year of age but under 2 years	751
3. 2 years of age but under 5 years	559
Total	3894

DIPHtheria IMMUNISATION.

Number of children under the age of 5 years who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year	123
Between the ages of 5-9 years	49

HOUSING.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

Applicants on waiting list at end of year...	480
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BUILDING.

Houses completed in 1953:—

Wisbech Corporation	80
Private Enterprise	21
Total post war houses completed & occupied	504
Work in hand, Corporation	78
Waiting list, Corporation	480
Work in hand, Private Enterprise	11

WATER.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

Appearance	Clear and bright
pH.	7.3
Alkalinity	192
Chlorine as Chlorides (p.p.m.)	23.4
Chlorine (free) (p.p.m.)	Nil
Hardness Carbonate (p.p.m.)	192
Hardness Non-Carbonate (p.p.m.)	68
Total Hardness (p.p.m.)	260

BACT. COUNT PER MILLION.

48 hours @ 37° C.	2
72 hours @ 22° C.	14

BACT. COLI PER 100 MILLION.

Presumptive	Absent
Confirmatory	Absent
Most probable Number	—

REMARKS.

The above result indicates a water of the highest bacterial purity, pure and wholesome in character, and suitable as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

EXTENSIONS.

Borough Scheme:—

3" pipe	2,127 yards
4" pipe	5,300 yards
6" pipe	3,406 yards

Housing sites:—

3" pipe	38 yards
4" pipe	65 yards
6" pipe	345 yards

Renewals:—

3" pipe	44 yards
9" pipe	126 yards

Agricultural extensions:—

3" pipe	687 yards
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Other extensions:—

4" pipe	193 yards
6" pipe	1,507 yards

New connections to the mains	212
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FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	19	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	102	56	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding outworkers' premises).	—	—	—	—
Total	130	75	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number of cases in which defects were found
Referred

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H. M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of Prosecutions instituted</i>
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
35	3	6	1	0	1	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
55	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	12	2	2	1	0	0	0

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlet Fever	41	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Pneumonia	15	10
Erysipelas	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Enteric Fever.....	0	0
Measles	814	0
Acute Encephalitis	0	0
Whooping Cough	12	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0
Food poisoning	1	0

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1953

Public Health Department,
Albion Place,
Nene Quay,
Wisbech.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1953, being my thirty-fourth Annual Report. This report is again mainly in summary form, yet covers the work carried out by my department to further the interests of the general health of the Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Inspections numbering 406 were made of premises where matters remedial under the Public Health Acts generally existed. In 10 cases only was it necessary to report the matters to the Public Health Committee for statutory action, and the whole of the remainder were dealt with informally by either preliminary notice or by interviews with the various owners. The details of work executed are enumerated in the summaries at the end of this report.

We are indebted to the Manager of the Wisbech and District Water Board for information supplied monthly, of the results of examination of samples of drinking water from the Board's supply. In every case the results have shown a water of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

Campers during the fruit picking season gave very little trouble and were generally well-conducted and nine licences were issued in this respect. The chief trouble was caused by caravanners who occupied two vacant sites near the centre of the town. In one of these cases where the land was privately owned, the owners caused the site to be cleared and fenced off. The other case was a site owned by the Corporation and was intermittently used by unauthorised caravanners throughout the year.

HOUSING.

The problem of old existing houses which are constantly deteriorating is still a question of great concern. It is a matter of necessity that the life of these houses should be extended until the clearance programmes are proceeded with and until this is accomplished, such repairs as are necessary to keep them in some degree habitable will have to be carried out. In this respect, owners are asked to execute a minimum of repairs only. During the past year representations to the Public Health Committee for formal action have been made with respect to 21 houses where repairs could be executed, 12 houses have been reported as being so unfit as to be incapable of repair, 5 houses have been demolished and repair work has taken place at a further 85 houses after informal action.

One certificate under the Mortgage Interest Restrictions (Amendment) Act was applied for and issued.

Three persons who were not receiving proper care and attention as provided by the National Assistance Act, 1948, were removed to an Institution.

ICE CREAM.

Two premises were registered to manufacture Ice Cream and one Ice Cream Factory was closed. The Heat Treatment Regulations are in operation and the premises are maintained in a satisfactory manner. 19 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

Grade I — 7 Grade II — 11 Grade III — 1.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the Borough registered to receive 45 male lodgers.

Both these premises have been inspected periodically and found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner. Structural alterations have been carried out at one of these premises.

RODENT CONTROL.

This work is carried out satisfactorily and one operator is employed for this purpose. The twice yearly treatment to sewers has been undertaken so as to qualify for grant aid.

The following additional operations have taken place and the cost of the operations have been recovered where applicable.

Prebait laid	1,874
Poison bait laid	1,611
Bodies recovered	498
Estimated kill	1,175

LICENCES.

The following Licences have been issued:—

Licences to Slaughter or Stun animals	26
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Knackers Licence	1
Slaughterhouse Licence	1
Gangmasters Licences	16
Camping Licences	9
Fellmongers Licence	1
Licences to keep a Pet Shop.....	3
Common Lodging House Licences	2
Dealers Licences to sell T.T. Milk	6
Dealers Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	12
Dealers Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	12
Supplementary Licences to sell T.T. Milk	9
Supplementary licence to sell Accredited Milk	1
Supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	7
Ice Cream licences	10

UNSOUND FOOD.

The inspection of meat and other foods has again taken up much of the time of your inspectors and shows a marked increase over the previous year. These inspections have included twice daily visits to the slaughterhouses and many Sunday and evening visits for the post mortem examinations of carcasses. The following gives some idea of the amount of this work carried out.

FRESH MEAT CONDEMNED.

Whole Carcasses of Beef	13
Part Carcasses of Beef	91
Whole Carcasses of Pork	32
Part Carcasses of Pork	75
Whole Carcasses of Mutton	11
Part Carcasses of Mutton	10
Whole Carcasses of Veal	3
Ox Offals (complete)	25
Part Ox Offals	90
Ox Livers (complete)	227
Part Ox Livers	142
Ox Heads and Tongues	74
Pigs Heads	7
Pigs plucks	98
Part Pigs Plucks	2
Pigs Livers	24
Calves Plucks	3
Sheeps Plucks	9
Part Sheeps Plucks	8
Sheeps Livers	41

CAUSES FOR CONDEMNATION.

	lbs.
Tuberculosis	13,728
Cirrhosis	3,030

Bruised	1,845
Septicoemia	1,527
Inflammation	1,400
Congestion	1,896
Emaciation	1,029
Actinomycosis	840
Pyoemia	762
Swine Fever	724
Dropsy	658
Erysipelas	608
Degeneration	438
Decomposition	360
Heated	345
Mildew	311
Bone Taint	189
Fibrous	189
Parasites	135
C. Angioma	120
Moribund	105
T. Pericarditis	98
Fevered	65
Hydroemia	50
Rash	45
Tumour	30
Immature	29
Caseous Lymphadenitis	27
Damaged	22
Abscess	14
Deterioration	11
Deformity	8
Pleurisy	6
Flukes	2
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	30,646

Total weight of Fresh Meat condemned:—

13 tons 13 cwts. 2 qrs. 14 lbs.

OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED.

Tins	1,302
Jars	149
Packets	1
Bottles	4
Boxes	146
Coconuts	190
Swiss Rolls	43
Rabbits	24

Lettuces	48				lbs.
Fruit	30 cwts. 3 qrs. 17 lbs.				
Fish	38 stones 10 lbs.				
	lbs.				
Cheese	185				
		Sausages		227	
		Bacon		88	
		Cake		25	
		Confectionery		359	
		Various		93	

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	2913	252	275	4972	3310
Number inspected	2913	252	275	4972	3310
All diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcasses condemned	3	3	11	27	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	525	3	68	187	
Percentage of the number inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	16.68%	2.18%	1.59%	6.47%	
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	10	—	—	5	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	124	—	—	19	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.23%	—	—	0.73%	

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING YEAR.

INSPECTION OF PREMISES.

Inspections under Public Health Acts	300
Inspections under Housing Acts	179
Inspections under Food and Drugs Acts	45
Inspections after Infectious Disease	83
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	44
Inspections of Shops and Food Stores	57
Inspections of Milkshops and Dairies	11
Inspections of Milk Depots	12
Inspections of Cowsheds	2
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	451
Inspections of Camping Grounds	7
Inspections of Caravans	36
Inspections of Common Lodging Houses	10
Inspections of Works in Progress	166

Inspections for Rodent Control	65
Inspections for Housing Applications	54
Inspections for Nuisances	106
Premises treated for Vermin	21
Ice Cream Samples taken	19
Re-inspections as to compliance with notices...	395
Smoke Tests applied to Drains	6
Water Tests applied to drains	5
Complaints Investigated	230
Miscellaneous	6

WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER SUPERVISION OR IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES

DRAINAGE.

Drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	43
New Pipe drains provided	6
Inspection chambers built on drains	7

New cesspools built	1	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Cesspools emptied	4	Houses cleansed, limewashed, etc.	3
Gutters repaired	2	Houses repaired	85
		Houses demolished	5
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.		Houses provided with sufficient water supply	6
New water closets provided.....	8	Accumulations of refuse removed	3
Water service repaired	2	Dustbins provided	29
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	14	Ball valves repaired	2
Sanitary pail provided	1	Water leakage repaired	1
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C's	8	Dangerous buildings made safe	2
Flushing cisterns to W.C's repaired.....	1	Persons not receiving proper care and attention	3
Flushing cisterns provided to urinals	1	Smoke nuisances abated	2
		GENERAL.	
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.		Steady progress has been made in matters coming	
Factories provided with sufficient sanitary acc.	1	within the purview of my department and the year has	
Factories provided with improved sanitary acc.	1	been good from a Public Health point of view. I again	
Factories provided with sufficient drainage...	1	offer my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the	
Workshops provided with sufficient sanitary		Public Health Committee for their assistance and guid-	
accommodation	1	ance in matters that have been brought to their notice	
		for special consideration and action.	

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. J. SUTCLIFFE, F.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

